Student Interview

Logan – Western Middle School

Me: Hi. What’s your name?

L: Logan.

Me: Logan. Hi. I’m Jennifer. Did Mrs., uh, C tell you anything about what I am here for?

L: Uh, no.

Me: No? Okay. Well, I am a researcher from UC and I am doing a research project on what you guys are doing in Mrs. C’s class, so that is why I have been kinda just watching you guys and writing down a bunch of stuff. What I wanted to do was try to get some information from a student’s point of view about what’s going on and that is why I asked to talk to you guys. So are you okay with that?

L: Yeah.

M: Okay. So do you mind if you record our conversation just so I can go back and listen to it later?

L: No.

M: Okay. So tell me, tell me what your favorite subject is just so I get to know you a little bit.

L: Math.

Me: Math, yeah. Do you have, you have, like, a mathematical mind?

L: I don’t know yet.

Me: [laughter] You trying to figure that out. What do you like to do after school?

L: Play outside.

Me: You like being outdoors.

L: Yeah, I like being outside.

Me: Okay, what is your job in, in the, um, in the group?

L: Mine was the technician.

Me: Okay, and how do, how do you feel about your job?

L: I like it.

Me: You like it? Would-Tell me some of the things-some of the tasks that you had to do as technician.

L: I’ve had to, um, load our power point and um, find stuff on the internet-the information that we need.

Me: Okay. Okay. Um, is that what your presentations going to be-a power point?

L: Yeah.

Me: Tell me what y our problem is.

L: We are doing why not to log trees.

Me: Oh, okay. Do they do that around here a lot? I am not from this area.

L: I think they have before, yeah.

Me: Mmhmm. Mmhmm. So you have you talked to anyone outside of the classroom about logging trees or have you used the internet or anything like that?

L: No, we used the internet, um, to see if they’ve logged around here, but they couldn’t find anything.

Me: Oh, okay. What, what did your group come up with as solutions?

L: Um, we have like, write a letter to have them stop, or, um, that’s pretty much it.

Me: Oh okay. Who are you having them write a letter to?

L: We were gonna write a letter to the people who were cutting down the trees.

Me: Oh, okay.

L: But we’ve asked Mr. L questions. And we’ve got the questions that we asked him and his answers to the questions.

Me: Who Mr. who?

L: L

Me: Who’s that?

L: Um, he is like, um, superintendent.

Me: Oh, so you have like talked to the superintendent?

L: Yeah.

Me: Wow. Were you nervous about that?

L: Well, the other two.

Me: Oh, the other people did it?

L: Yeah.

Me: Do you think they were nervous?

L: Probably so.

Me: [laughter] Um, so in talking about your other group members, so you feel like everyone is kind of pulling their weight and doing what their tasks are?

L: Yeah.

Me: Do you like working in groups?

L: Yeah, it’s been than working by yourself.

Me: Yeah, you like it better than working by yourself. Um, well how do you feel about working with all of the technology, the computers, the flip cams?

L: It’s fine with me, like.

Me: Yeah. Have you ever done anything like this before?

L: We have used computers and stuff before but nothing like that.

Me: What is the difference?

L: Like, they are newer, they’ve got different stuff on them and so-

Me: More advanced?

L: Yeah.

Me: Do they work better? Does that help?

L: Kinda, yeah.

Me: What have you used in the past? Have you used laptops before?

L: Yeah. We have a mobile lab for our school.

Me: Oh, okay. Do you like working with that or?

L: Yeah.

Me: You seem kinda, yeah [softer], not as much or?

L: Well, it’s fine. I don’t care to work with it.

Me: Yeah, you like working with this kinda stuff better?

L: Yeah.

Me: Have you taken pictures or videos or anything like that?

L: We’ve got pictures. We haven’t’ taken any videos.

Me: Oh, okay. Okay. What do you want to be when you get older? Do you know any of that yet?

L: No.

Me: How do you think this will help you when you get older?

L: That I will know more about computers and stuff.

Me: Mmhmm. That makes a difference. Okay. Well, you have been very informative, Logan. I really appreciate you taking the time to talk to me. Thank you very much. [laughter] I think there is one more person so if you would ask them to come in to talk to me.

L: Alright.

Me: Good luck with your presentation next week.

Interview ends

Interviewer Notes

Logan was very shy and seemed uncomfortable. He liked working in groups because he didn’t like having all of the responsibility of the work by himself. He likes the outdoors and it shows that this is important to him as he chose logging, an outdoor problem, for his project. His solutions were limited. He didn’t not seem to have much information that explained the specifics of the problem. His job as technician may be the reason for this as he was more responsible for the technical aspect of the project. However, when pressed, he could not explain the tasks he had done so far. He did not like working with the mobile labs and preferred more updated technology. I am thinking about the interview with Emmett where he didn’t choose to make the simple design for the amaryllis- how this compared to not wanting to use old outdated technology but venture forth into using new technology that may be more challenging and interesting. His job as technician probably was best due to his social and communicative skills. Not sure if this is developmental or because he is a teenager talking to a stranger. He could apply the the use of technology to his future in a logical way.